

Famous Paintings Set Released December 31



Just as the year 2015 came to an end, word came in from the Inter-Governmental Philatelic Corporation that a group of nations they represent issued a Famous Paintings mini-Omnibus set.

Shown here, top left is "Water Lillies" by Claude Monet, issued by the Canouan Grenadines of Saint Vincent. In the 1890s, as part of a landscaping project, Monet developed some lily ponds that included plants from distant lands. In a variety of forms and colors, they became the subjects of his best-known paintings.

At the lower right, and in color on our front cover, is "Farbige Formen III" by August Macke, also issued by the Canouan Grenadines of Saint Vincent. The oil on panel painting was completed in 1913. The German Expressionist artist died at the age of 27 on the front in France in September 1914. Also shown on that sheetlet are works by Boris Kustodiev, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner and Edgar Degas.

At the upper right is the gruesome depiction of "Judith Beheading

Holofernes" by Caravaggio (Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio), also issued by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The subject, taken from the Book of Judith, but now regarded as a non-historic parable, shows Judith saving her people after she lures the Assyrian General Holofernes, gets him drunk and kills him. Caravaggio was known for his ability to capture scenes at their most dramatic moments.

At the lower right is Adoration of the Magi by Bartolome Esteban Murillo, also issued by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Murillo was a 17th Century Baroque painter who is best known for his religious themes. Also shown on this sheetlet are works by Johannes Vermeer, Albrecht Durer and Frans Hals.

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